Wheat spoiled due to negligence

454. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether lakhs of tonne of wheat has been spoiled due to the official negligence and is unfit for human consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the officials responsible and the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to check the recurrence for such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) As reported by the Food corporation of India (FCI), no stock of wheat has been damaged to the extent of not being fit for the human consumption due to negligence of the officials. However, in the normal course of operations of foodgrains in the FCI, some stocks get damaged and become unfit for human consumption on account of prolonged storage or natural calamities. As on 1-7-2003, there was a stock of 18,389 MT of wheat in the godowns of the FCI with had become unfit for humah consumption during the normal course of operations.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Due care is taken to ensure that the quality of the stocks of foodgrains is maintained. Prophylactic and curative treatment is administered and pest control measures are undertaken at requisite intervals. In addition to regular periodic inspection of the stocks, surprise checks are also undertaken by the Regional/Zonal/Headquarters officers of the FCI and the officers from the Government. Any damage to the stock of foodgrains is investigated by a Committee constituted in the FCI for this purpose and Departmental proceedings are undertaken against the officials found responsible for lapses.